

(5) 60

2/27/78

FF-1 R

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION-COPY

BB055

27 16 16

VV ESA917BRA560
RR RUESBA
DE RUEHC #9774 0581610
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 271552Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0011
BT

STATE 049774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSION WITH ARGENTINE ATTACHE

1. ON FEBRUARY 21, ARA/ECA OFFICERS HAD LONG CONVERSATION WITH ARGENTINE MILITARY ATTACHE, GENERAL SIGWALD. HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A PROMINENT TOPIC.

2. SIGWALD WAS INFORMED OF DIFFICULTY WE HAD DECIDING WHETHER TO ABSTAIN OR VOTE NO ON ARGENTINE LOANS IN IBRD. DEPTOFFS NOTED THAT DISAPPEARANCES OF SOME RECENTLY LIBERATED PRISONERS ALMOST RESULTED IN A NO VOTE. DEPTOFFS MADE STRONGEST CASE THEY COULD FOR END TO DISAPPEARANCES, SUGGESTING THAT MATTER OF HONOR TO THE UNIFORM WAS INVOLVED IF A STRONG MILITARY COULD NOT ARREST OPENLY. SIGWALD SEEMED SATISFIED WITH ABSTENTION AND FORECAST THAT WE WOULD SOON BE ABLE TO VOTE AFFIRMATIVELY. DEPTOFFS UNDERLINED HOW UNFORTUNATE IT WOULD BE IF SITUATION FORCED US TO VOTE NO AGAIN.

3. COMMENT: SIGWALD WAS ALL OPTIMISM AND FULL OF PLEDGES OF IMPROVEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS; HOWEVER, HIS HARD-

LINE CREDENTIALS SLIPPED OUT WHEN HE CONFIDED THAT THE ARGENTINE EDUCATION SYSTEM WAS STILL INFILTRATED BY EXTREMISTS WHO WOULD HAVE TO BE WEEDED OUT. VANCE

BT

#9774

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

LOT 81F93
(717) 52/52

4BA-9
4-12-76

Text sent to you
Bills